

**REVENUE:** Revenue statement issued

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 2 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Buckley, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	Esquivel, Thatcher
<b>Exc.:</b>	-
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/9, 4/10

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates contractual relationship of domestic partnership, giving same-sex couples who enter into a domestic partnership contract rights and responsibilities comparable to those of marriage contracts. Establishes eligibility, procedure, and fee of \$25 for completing and filing declarations of domestic partnership with county clerk. Provides Circuit Court of Oregon as jurisdiction for Oregon domestic partnership legal proceedings, even if one or both partners cease to be Oregon residents.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Meaning of Ballot Measure 36 results
- Rights, privileges, benefits, and responsibilities of legal relationships
- Behavioral choices and unchangeable characteristics
- Diversity and innovation
- Differences between civil union and marriage
- Reasons for using term “domestic partnership”

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes “civil union” to “domestic partnership” throughout. Clarifies provisions regarding extensions of retirement plans that might jeopardize the plan’s status under the federal Internal Revenue Code. Clarifies that declarations of domestic partnership and their dissolutions are vital records to be included in vital statistics, and that dissolutions of domestic partnership judgments are records to be reported to the Center for Health Statistics.

**BACKGROUND:** By Executive Order (06-03) Governor Kulongoski established the Governor’s Taskforce on Equality in Oregon. In a report issued December 15, 2006, the Taskforce included recommendation #2: “the State of Oregon should recognize same-sex relationships in a manner that confers important rights, benefits and responsibilities on committed same-sex couples, within the limits of Measure 36.”

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Jersey allow civil unions that provide spousal rights to same-sex couples; California provides nearly all state-level spousal rights to unmarried couples (deemed “domestic partnerships”); Hawaii, Maine, and the District of Columbia provide some spousal rights to unmarried couples; and Massachusetts issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In a measure similar to HB 2007-A under consideration in Washington State, the relationships are known as “domestic partnerships.” Forty-three states provide no such rights or benefits to same-sex couples.

Under HB 2007-A, Oregon domestic partners would not have rights granted by Federal law that apply only to couples with a marriage contract, such as the right to have another state legally recognize the relationship.

4/11/2007 3:20:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***